इस्पात मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री संतोष मोहन देव) : (क) और (ख) जी, हां। पिछले तीन वर्षों के दौरान सरकार ने देश में लोहे और इस्पात के उत्पादन में वृद्धि करने के लिए अनेक कदम उठाये हैं। सरकारी क्षेत्र के इस्पात संयंत्रों का आधुनीकिकरण और विस्तार कार्य शुरु किये गये हैं। सरकारी क्षेत्र के लिए आरक्षित उद्योगों की सूची से लोहा और इस्पात को निकालने, अनिवार्य लाइसेंसिंग के प्रावधानों से इसे मुक्त करने और लोहा तथा इस्पात के वितरण और मूल्यन पर से नियंत्रण समाप्त करने के लिए उठाये गये पूर्ववर्ती कदमों का अनुपालन करते हुए सरकार द्वारा कई अन्य उपाय किये गये हैं जिससे निजी क्षेत्र में लोहा और इस्पात उत्पादन की अतिरिक्त क्षमताओं के सृजन में प्रोत्साहन और सुलियत मिलेगी। वे उपाय इस प्रकार हैं :—

(1) पूंजीगत माल के आयात शुल्क में कमी,

(2) लोहा और इस्पात उद्योग के लिए कच्चे माल के आयात शुल्क में कमी,

(3) पंजीगत माल और पेट्रोलियम उत्पादों इत्यादि के लिए माइवेट लागू करना।

(ग) वर्ष 1992-93, 1993-94 और 1994-95 के दौरान लौह अयस्क, स्पंज लोहा और विक्रेय इस्पात का उत्पादन और पिछले दो वर्षों की तुलना में वर्ष 1994-95 के दौरान हुई प्रतिशत वृद्धि निम्नलिखित है :—

	उत्पादन (हजार टन)			निम्नलिखित की तुलना में वर्ष 1994-95 के दौरान हुई प्रतिशत वृद्धि	
	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95	1992-93	1993-94
1. लौह अयस्क	55818	57474	58388	5%	2%
2. स्पंज लोहा	1441	2396	2950	105%	23%
3. विक्रेय इस्पात	15749	15906	17145	9%	8%

Progress of 'Wheel and Axle' of Durgapur Steel Plant

6655. SHRI JIBON ROY: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 1833 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 24th March, 1995 and state:

(a) whether there have been any progress of 'Wheel and Axle' order from the Wheel & Axles Plant of Durgapur Steel Plant after making continuous efforts to persuade the Ministry of Railways to step up their procurement of Wheel and Axle;

(b) if so, the details of the progress; and

(c) if no, whether Durgapur Steel Plant still suffering by loss of about 26 crores?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) and (b) Railway

Board have given indications about placement of the following orders for the year 1995-96 on SAIL/DSP:

1. BG Coaching Wheels .	8000 Nos.
2. Loco Wheels .	6000 Nos.
3. EMU Wheels .	5000 Nos.
4. Wheels . . .	28692 Nos.
5. Axles . . .	2464 Nos.

(Sl. No. 4 & 5 are against the order released for 1994-95).

(c) Loss suffered by Durgapur Steel Plant on account of placement of lower order for Wheels and Axles by the Railways in 1994-95 was Rs. 26 crores. Since the indicative order for 1995-96 is still lower, the losses of DSP are likely to increase unless it is able to find other customers.

Wheel & Axle Procurement order

6656. SHRI JIBON ROY: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry is ready to agree with the Railway Ministry on the issue of 'Wheel & Axle' procurement order from D.S.P. depends upon traffic demand;

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to protect the Wheel & Axle unit of D.S.P.; and

(c) if no, the steps going to take by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) The maior part of requirements of Wheels & Axles is intended for use in production of coaches and wagons. The Railways have stated that due to drop in the production of wagons and conventional coaches during 1994-95; the requirement of wheels and axles have come down substantially.

(b) and (c) Keeping in view the investment of Rs. 153 crores that has been made in modernising the Wheel & Axle Plant at DSP specially with a view to cater to the requirement of the Indian Railways, Ministry of Railways was requested to assist in maximum utilisation of its capacity and for equitable apportionment of load of wheels and axles between Railway's own unit at Bangalore and DSP.

SAIL has also been advised by the Ministry of Steel to explore possibilities of export especially to neighbouring countries. While SAIL is pursuing this vigorously, there are limitations in exercising the export options as innumerable specifications and grades of Railway products are required in different countries.

Massive expansion programme of TISCO

6657. MISS. SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Tata Iron and Steel Company (TISCO) has undertaken a massive expansion programme; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, Tata Iron and Steel Company Limited (TISCO) has been expanding its capacity in a phased manner since 1980. The latest phase (Phase .III) of expansion/modernisation involved increase in saleable steel capacity from 2.1 million tonnes to 2.7 million tonnes per annum (mtpa). The centre piece of phase III modernisation programme is the 1 mtpa hot strip mill commissioned in 1993.